

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 8-9 and 13-26 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant amends independent claims 17 and 22 more clearly to recite the features of the invention as claimed therein.

The Examiner rejects claims 2-6, 9, 16-18, 20, 22-23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by a newly-cited Okuda et al. (Okuda) reference, and claims 13-15, 19, 21, 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuda in view of the previously-cited EP 0947325 A1 to Chang et al. (Chang '325).

The Examiner objects to claim 8. Applicant cancels claim 8; therefore, this objection should now be withdrawn.

With regard to the Examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as follows.

Applicant's claimed invention provides methods of driving a liquid jetting apparatus and liquid jetting apparatuses comprising unique combinations of method steps (see claims 17-21) and features (see claims 22-26, 2-6, 9 and 16) including, *inter alia*: a first expanding element, which drives the pressure generating element so as to expand the pressure chamber, so that a meniscus of liquid in the nozzle orifice is pulled toward the pressure chamber as much as possible; and a second contracting element, which drives the pressure generating element so as to contract the pressure chamber expanded by the second expanding element, so that the meniscus is again urged in the ejecting direction to increase jetting speed of a satellite liquid drop which follows a main liquid drops, wherein contracted amount of the pressure chamber established by

the second contracting element being less than an expanded amount of the pressure chamber established by the first expanding element (see independent claims 17 and 22).

The Examiner alleges that Okuda discloses an inkjet recording drive method and ink jet recording apparatus where a drive pulse, as illustrated in its Fig. 4, includes element 1 (which allegedly corresponds to a first expanding element as recited in claims 17 and 22) and element 6 (which allegedly correspond to a second contracting element as recited in claims 17 and 22).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's analysis. In fact, in contradistinction to Applicant's claims 17 and 22, which recite a second contracting element driving the pressure generating element so as to contract the pressure chamber expanded by the second expanding element, so that the meniscus is again urged in the ejecting direction to increase jetting speed of a satellite liquid drop which follows a main liquid drops, Okuda discloses that its element 6 of Fig. 4 is "a forth voltage change process 6 for slowly returning the application voltage to a reference voltage" and "has a function to return the pressure generation chamber to its initial volume" so that "no pressure wave is generated which effects the subsequent eject" (see Id., col. 23, lines 25-31; and col. 24, lines 21-23). That is, in Okuda element 6 of the drive pulse has nothing to do with liquid drop ejection. Instead, Okuda's element 6 is a damping element for suppressing the meniscus vibration so as not to eject a liquid droplet.

Accordingly, Applicant's independent claims 17 and 22, as well as the dependent claims 2-6, 9, 16, 18, 20, 23 and 25 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims) are not anticipated by Okuda at least for these reasons.

Chang '325 does not supply the above-noted deficiencies of Okuda. Therefore, Applicant's dependent 13-15, 19, 21, 24 and 26 (which incorporate all the novel and unobvious features of their respective base claims) would not have been obvious from any reasonable combination of Okuda and Chang '325 at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 17 and 22.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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